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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

April 19, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

Support for Foothill Areas to Strictly Enforce County Code Title 10, Chapter 10.32 Animals Running at Large

IT IS RECOMMENDS THAT YOUR BOARD send a letter to the County Animal Control and Foothill communities requesting they strictly enforce County Code Title 10, Chapter 10.32 – Animals Running at Large; specifically, Section 10.32.010. The letter should also stipulate that Animal Control agents should coordinate with Department of Fish and Game, Angeles and San Bernardino National Forest personnel to facilitate the trapping of free-ranging dogs in areas adjacent to bighorn sheep habitat.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose is to prevent stray dogs from harassing and/or preying upon bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelsoni*) in the San Gabriel Mountains.

JUSTIFICATION

The California Department of Fish & Game (Department) and Forest Service has been monitoring bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) in the San Gabriel Mountains since 1967. In 1980 the population was estimated at approximately 740 individuals, making this the largest population of bighorn sheep within the range of that subspecies. Recent investigations supported by the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission (Commission) reported a drastic population decline over the past two decades, resulting in an overall loss of approximately 82% of the population. The Forest Service Regional Forester

formally listed this population as a Forest Service Sensitive Species in May 2003. In response to the dramatic decline and high level of interest in this population, the Commission, Department, and Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests are currently implementing projects to restore this population,

Free-ranging dogs within Foothill communities adversely affect the San Gabriel bighorn sheep population. The Department confirmed that an adult female bighorn sheep was killed by free-ranging dogs in December 2002. Numerous sightings of stray dogs within sheep habitat and of dogs harassing bighorn sheep have been reported since then.

Los Angeles County Code, Title 10, Section 10.32.010 requires that dogs be confined to their own property and not be permitted to run at large. Furthermore, Section 3960 of the Fish and Game Code states that "It is unlawful to permit or allow any dog to pursue any fully protected mammal at any time." (Pursue means "to run after or chase"). It also states that such dogs may be captured or dispatched if they are inflicting injury or immediately threatening to inflict injury to any "fully protected" mammal. Bighorn sheep are listed as fully protected in the Fish and Game Code.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund.

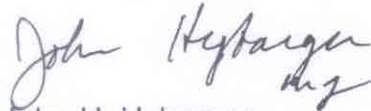
FINANCING

None.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This is a precautionary measure to protect the San Gabriel Mountains bighorn sheep population.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Hybarger" with a stylized flourish at the end.

John H. Hybarger,
Chairman

JHH:ml:kw

Title 10 ANIMALSChapter 10.32 ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE

10.32.010 Dogs -- Running at large prohibited -- Exceptions.

No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog shall cause, permit or allow the same to be or to run at large upon any highway, street, lane, alley, court or other public place, or upon any private property or premises other than those of the person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of such dog, in the unincorporated area of the county of Los Angeles, unless such dog be restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length and is in the charge, care, custody or control of a competent person. (Ord. 9454 § 1 (part), 1967; Ord. 8043 § 12 (part), 1961; Ord. 4729 Art. 7 § 701, 1946.)

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